



**Representative Erika White**  
Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 204  
House Veterans and Military Development Committee  
April 9, 2025

Thank you, Chair Richardson, Vice Chair Mathews, Ranking Member Hall, and distinguished members of the Ohio Veterans and Military Development Committee, for the opportunity to present my joint sponsor testimony with Representative Melanie Miller on House Bill 204, legislation that will designate March 9<sup>th</sup> as 6888 Central Postal Directory Battalion Day.

House Bill 204 seeks to honor the 855 women who compromised the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion. These remarkable women undertook a critical, time-sensitive mission to label, sort, and clear millions of pieces of mail destined for American service members during World War II. This laborious and tedious task was initially projected to take six months to complete due to the sheer volume of correspondence. These women used the motto “no mail, low morale” to inspire them to accomplish the near-impossible task of sorting two years of backlogged mail during World War II. Through their dedication and teamwork, they finished the job in just three months, greatly uplifting the spirits and morale of the soldiers receiving the mail.

The Battalion traveled to several military camps across various locations, bravely sifting through mountains of mail under challenging and often grim conditions. They frequently worked in cold, poorly lit warehouses, where the atmosphere was not only uncomfortable but also presented various hazards, including rodents that were drawn to food items sent by loved ones for the soldiers. Despite these obstacles, the women persevered.

Through their tireless efforts, the members of the Battalion provided immense support to those risking their lives on the battlefield. This significant chapter of World War II history is often overlooked, reflecting a broader tendency to forget the contributions of women in wartime roles. It is vital to pay tribute to these service women, particularly those from Ohio, who played a crucial role in maintaining the connection between soldiers and their families back home. The story of the Battalion serves as an inspirational testament to resilience and dedication, and their legacy is deserving of recognition and remembrance for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to take any questions.